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Athens, 5 June 2008

Discussion about reports and survey papers

In the reports and survey papers, many themes are introduced in such a manner that it is hard to find a level of analysis which fits to every one. In this discussion paper, we will deal with system of social innovation so as to include socially creative strategy (SCS). In so doing my intervention will deal mainly with the process of innovation of which, I think, it is something common to every existential field and it is also a good starting point that leads to a general discussion about the role of Institutions, Social movements, innovation in three large sectors of economic activities. The WP papers are an important contribution to the setting of actions that have to be delivered so as to create and transform different existential fields. The key sectors (existential fields) identified in the WP synthesis document are cross sectional or transversal. Indeed, Labour Market, Employment Strategies and Social Economy, Exclusion and Inclusion in Education and Training, Housing and Neighbourhood, Health and Environment, Governance and Democracy presents some great capacities for social innovations, SCS, transfer of knowledge from each other, actors' mobilization, community-based action and exchange of information from each other.

The base for organization to be innovative are twofold, one is the capability of society to be able to let the innovators freely create new social arrangements, and the other one consists of offering a facility for disseminating or diffusing the innovation through the networks that already exist in the civil society and the public sector. The influence can come from other experiences from worldwide civil society in the same sector and the influence can also come from the exchange of knowledge from one sector to another. For example, the SCS in the housing can be taken from elsewhere than the near neighborhood, it can derive from an experiment from another country. On the other hand, it can be the result of an exchange of ideas about innovation from the sector of health & environment. Therefore, the exchange of knowledge is the key for our comprehension of the different process of innovation. It is a key

only if can understand the rules of making up SCS and if we are able to codify the knowledge about innovation process. This means that the degree of opening of rules and norms of a specific society or collectivity represents the conditions for success or failures of the process. Academic research about innovation process is one of our task as scholars and academics. With civil society actors, we produce knowledge and that cognition circulates from one field to another and gain legitimacy which is a requirement for the validation of the process. More than that, the uniqueness and the originality of social innovation process rest on the participation and the empowerment of a diversity of actors that entails responsibility and citizenship in a living democracy. Participation is the motive of the process as well as the aim of the innovation heading to improve conditions for social life. That's why, the involvement of actors, their participation, the expression of different point of view are also making in account as well as the final outcome resulting in a new service, a new way of delivering a service or a new product. This process is cross sectional to the existential fields identified in the survey paper.

It is now conceded that social economy sector is more able to set the conditions for social innovations. However, it is not the only place for innovations, even though it is the main sector where social innovations are produced in the whole society. Private sector organizations are also conceiving social innovations such as corporate social responsibility, environmental responsibility, partnership with community, fair trade, but in that field they trailed comparing to their capacity of innovation in such domains as technology, organization or marketing. For their part, public sector organizations are mainly recognized for their capacity to make partnership with other sector organizations in order to spread out and to disseminate innovations whose offer large capacities for problems solving at the range of a community or society or social transformation at the level of the society. Private sector organizations are not really admitted as social innovators, they are rather acknowledged to be innovators whereof the consequences lead to important shift in the labor market.

Innovation, mainly technological innovations developing in private organizations can lead to an improvement of working conditions, wealth-being and growth of high-skill employment. However, this success has an other side of the coin in other sectors of economic activities whose stand for the failure of this kind of economic development leading to unemployment, poverty and exclusion. Nonetheless there are also innovations in this second group. Those innovations, the technological innovations as well as the social innovations are

not necessarily connected at the beginning of the process. However an innovation lasts if it is being rooted to the community in which it is flourishing (it is the legitimacy dimension), and if it is a solution to a problem identified by the actors of that community (the performance dimension). The actors can be a group of citizens, the members of an organization, the take-holders of an association, they belong to the civil society and are linked to social movements. Innovation survives if it is disseminated in a larger community and if it presents possibilities for institutionalization. Hence, a specific innovation cannot be isolated from other innovations. They form a system of innovations. Therefore there is a huge opportunity to link together all processes of innovations no matter if they are technological, organizational or social.

The sustainable dynamism is the trademark of society where different groups and social categories can be connected one from each other and being associated to the process of innovation. That means private firms, different levels of government and public sector establishments, universities and colleges, as well as social organizations account for a system that can produce technological and organizational innovations in the production system at the same time actors are able to anticipate social problems and bring about innovative solutions with SCS.

More than a solution to a specific kind of problem, social innovation put forward specific form of social arrangements between a great diversity of actors, even though they come from business enterprises, social movements, local associations or public administration. Those arrangements lead to new means of questioning social problems and also create new forum for discussing the solutions into the collectivity. Those forum or any other device set to find solutions are made in such a way to preserve the high standards for quality of life. Meanwhile, social innovations or systems of social innovations are also associated to a specific process of social transformation in the whole society, translating democratic means for development and governance into the organizations as well as in the territories. Those mechanisms contribute to the empowerment of actors and assure the collective training. It leads to the sharing of cognitive capital necessary to the change. Consequently, the three dimensions of social innovation involve a thought about knowledge, the importance of creating new knowledge and the importance of diffusing this knowledge. Indeed, this knowledge cannot be store, it is founded in the experiences of actors and it is important to codify that knowledge in order to disseminate it among people who can have

access to specific information and then can use it for their own experimentation of social innovation. More, this knowledge is part of the system of innovation, experiences can be transfer from one experience to another with the same pattern leading to the performance of the solution to the specific problem as well as the legitimacy of the innovation, mainly if they are overlapping one with the other. Indeed in a system of social innovations, there is a certain level of fluidity between every and single experience because there is something in common. Therefore, the process is the key for our understanding of social transformation. An innovation coming from a centralized and authoritative process has certainly not the same impact and the same social accepted meaning than another innovation which comes through a participative and open process. The latter leads to coercive innovation where rules and sanctions become the mechanisms through which the solution is implemented. On the contrary, innovation which is set through a democratic and participative process lead to a normative innovation where norms and values make the implementation accepted and supported by the participants for the performance of the system.

It is through the system that innovators can share their experiences from different perspectives even though it comes from the education field, health and environment, organization and employment or housing. Dissemination of knowledge of specific nature is possible if networking is being constituted and if people can move from one set of action to another. In a community or a whole society those networks take roots to the old social movements, the cooperative movement, the trade-union movement and the feminist movement and give rise to new movement like the environmental movement, gay movement, and so on. They can be able to propose solutions to the problem of housing, to the relations between man and women, to sustainable development, to the problem of employment, investment or integration to the labor market.

Social movements are the starting points of social innovation. Nonetheless, SCS are introduced and takes place in the collectivity where former rules and norms are being shaken up and bump against. Those innovations lead to disruption involving structural and deep cultural changes. Social innovation knocks the old institutions, the codes of conduct and the way people are used to solve social problems through direct intervention of the State. Social innovators with those who support them must get trough those instituted actions in order to change the society. Thinking about social innovations mean a deep thought about collective action which is not the sum up of individual initiatives. Initiatives leading to social

innovations are confronted to institutional environment but it contributes to build a new society through compromises and regulation devices.

Social innovations do not taking the same place according to the type of State at the head of the society. In Liberal or conservative State compared to social-democrat or interventionist state, the status of SI will not be the same. In every case, its autonomy must be preserved from the control and seizure of either the market or the state because it brings a great capacity for the democratization of the institutions.

Researches and studies about social innovations bring some great considerations about social capital. Civil Society reveals complex relations showing a great diversity of interests, different values and needs of heterogeneous actors struggling for the sharing of resources. Civil society is made of many social networks more or less structured, more or less tight in which actors are moving and expanding the bonds with others in order to structure their project and give it a meaning.

Social innovation process, that is the way actors operate to create an innovative project, gives some room to the social network who takes form, but it exists really because it is strongly rooted to existing social networks. Hence, social innovation is not a pure invention blossoming from original ideas of individuals. Social innovation that subsists is the one who finds takers where actors are able to own the idea and give a meaning to the project according to the knowledge they possess in the existing organizations and institutions. Social innovation calls for a redistribution of power and resources within the organization, which is a continuous challenge to the legitimacy of the existing forms of cooperation between social actors. The process of innovation shows the setting of order of ill-assorted features whose belong to the new world as well as to the former universe which is not completely vanished. The study of the innovation process reveals the way by which persuasive arguments serve to repudiate the old order and to justify and validate the stages leading to the new reality that are establishing.

At first, social innovations arise and are experimented in organizations. They are constituted of a set of actions limited to some particular problem and they are interpreted like deviant actions against the main frame of instituted regulation. Then when it gives an appropriate answer to a problem which is spreading among various organization, this specific

solution is also adopted by those organizations before being disseminated to the whole community. However social innovations do not just propose a correct answer to the problem. This solution must agree with the basic institutions of a community and the process through which a new organizational form springs out and the actions that lead to the innovation are compatible with the main modes of institutionalized relations between actors, groups and individuals. First and foremost, social actors are looking for a meaning of the situation in which they behave. They interpret and build the reality in social scene that conditions the interactions and social relations. Institution and organization are the key concepts used to understand social innovations and its consequences. The institutions are reflecting relations of domination in every society, the inequalities between social groups and categories; the relations between public authority and social actors. The organizations are the concrete location of actions in which institutionalized rules are applied. They are the scenes for putting forward the rationalities of efficiency and the prevailing techniques through which myths and values become legitimated. Organizations are always formed by the institutions which constraint the innovation process.

For my last word, I will say something about territory which does form a specific locus of innovation when conditions for innovation are gathered. It is also an emplacement for networking in the aim of finding or creating new set of rules, norms and values whose are influencing the process of innovation. Those innovation processes can be resistant to the influence of others processes that are made in other spheres of production such are those built up in private or public sector organizations. It depends on the main type of social organization of the society that can be based on the market or on a more co-operative mode of organization. In the latter case, bridges between innovations are possible on the more participative and democratic means while innovation system in the former way of organizing the society are then possible in a more instrumental and performing ways of bridging the processes of innovations.